



August 18, 2010 06:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time 

## Oakland-Based Group Testing Redwood City Homeowner Tax Hike, Says DMB Saltworks

*Group Pursues Tax Hike Despite Repeated Public Denials*

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--The special interest group that proposed the defeated Measure W in Redwood City in 2008 is now testing a new proposal that would raise taxes on Redwood City homeowners.

"We have received several reports from local residents about a new Redwood City telephone survey that is asking about a new tax on Redwood City homeowners to fund some sort of restoration scheme," said DMB Saltworks General Manager John P. Bruno. "This outside group has repeatedly denied that it would ask Redwood City residents to raise their taxes in order to buy or restore the 1,400-acre Redwood City Industrial Saltworks site. Yet right now they are conducting a poll that tests just such a proposal: a tax hike on Redwood City homeowners."

**"The truth is our Oakland-based opponents have no plan for the Saltworks site"**

Save The Bay, the Oakland based group, also paid professional gatherers to place Measure W on the ballot in Redwood City in 2008. Voters soundly rejected that proposal, which would have cost Redwood City homeowners an estimated \$30 million.

Now the group is looking to reach directly into the pockets of Redwood City residents to fund its schemes for the Saltworks site – a scheme that does nothing to deal with the community's needs for parks, housing, jobs and increased economic activity.

"Instead of supporting the Saltworks proposal, which creates 700 acres of open space at no cost to the taxpayer, this Oakland-based group wants Redwood City homeowners to pay higher taxes and get nothing in return," Bruno said. "In today's economy we seriously doubt Redwood City homeowners will willingly increase their yearly taxes by hundreds of dollars to give this special interest group a blank check."

By contrast, the Balanced Plan for the Saltworks will provide 700 acres of new parks and recreation lands, open space and restored tidal marsh areas at no cost to city taxpayers. It will double the amount of park and recreation lands in Redwood City and it will provide more than ten miles of new bay side biking and hiking trails for all local families to enjoy. It will also create tens of thousands of new jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in new economic activity every year.

"The truth is our Oakland-based opponents have no plan for the Saltworks site," Bruno continued. "They have no plan to protect bay side neighborhoods from flooding. They have no plan to provide affordable housing to help reduce commuting and greenhouse gasses. They have no plan to provide more park and recreation lands for local families. They have no plan to create thousands of new local jobs and revitalize the local economy. Instead, they are trying to mislead the public and the taxpayers about their true goal -- which is to raise taxes on homeowners. That is an effort that is doomed to failure just as Measure W was rejected in a landslide."

### Contacts

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650-995-4481 (cell)

BILL ANALYSIS

2103 |

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|SENATE RULES COMMITTEE | AB  
|Office of Senate Floor Analyses |  
|1020 N Street, Suite 524 |  
|(916) 651-1520 Fax: (916) |  
327-4478

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2103  
Author: Hill (D)  
Amended: 6/2/10 in Senate  
Vote: 21

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE : 3-0, 6/9/10  
AYES: Kehoe, DeSaulnier, Price  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Cox, Aanestad

ASSEMBLY FLOOR : 74-0, 5/6/10 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT : San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

SOURCE : San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority

DIGEST : This bill prescribes the method of how the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA) places a regional funding measure before the voters of the SFBRA.

ANALYSIS : Proposition 218 (1996) established that a tax levied by a special-purpose authority is a special tax requiring 2/3 voter approval. State law authorizes the legislative body of any district to levy a special tax with 2/3 voter approval (AB 2345, Chappie, 1980).

The SFBRA is a regional entity with jurisdiction extending throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area (AB 2954 [Lieber], Chapter 690, Statutes of 2008). SFBRA's purpose is to raise and allocate resources for the restoration,

enhancement, protection, and enjoyment of wetlands and  
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AB 2103

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wildlife habitats in the San Francisco Bay and along its shoreline. SFBRA can levy a special tax consistent with the provisions of Proposition 218.

This bill requires the board of supervisors of the county or counties in which the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority proposes to levy a special tax to call a special election on the measure. This bill requires the special election to be consolidated with the next regularly scheduled statewide election and requires that the measure be submitted to the voters in the appropriate counties, consistent with specified constitutional requirements.

This bill requires each county included in the measure to use the ballot question, title, and summary, and ballot language provided in the resolution of the Authority. The bill requires the county clerk of each county to report the results of the special election to the Authority.

This bill inserts, into the statute authorizing the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority to levy a special tax, a cross-reference to the statute that generally authorizes special districts to levy special taxes.

#### Comments

The SFBRA is responsible for helping to restore 36,000 acres of San Francisco Bay shoreline into tidal wetlands, an endeavor that may cost more than \$1.4 billion over 50 years. To cover some of these costs, and leverage additional state and federal funding, SFBRA officials anticipate the need to seek 2/3 voter approval for special taxes, as authorized by current law. This bill adds language to SFBRA's authorizing statute clarifying some of the rules that would apply to an election on a special tax proposed by the Authority.

FISCAL EFFECT : Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No  
Local: No

SUPPORT : (Verified 6/10/10)

San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (source)  
Association of Bay Area Governments

CONTINUED

Save the Bay  
Trust for Public Land  
DMB Associates, Inc.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR :

AYES: Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Beall, Bill  
Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Blumenfield,  
Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles  
Calderon, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, Davis, De  
La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer,  
Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Furutani, Gaines,  
Galgiani, Garrick, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi,  
Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight,  
Lieu, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Miller, Monning, Nava,  
Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino,  
Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio,  
Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico,  
Tran, Villines, Yamada, John A. Perez  
NO VOTE RECORDED: Bass, Block, Gilmore, Mendoza, Norby

AGB:nl 6/16/10 Senate Floor Analyses

SUPPORT/OPPOSITION: SEE ABOVE

\*\*\*\* END \*\*\*\*